

FEBRUARY 2006

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## SNOW ALERTS ONLINE GO TO THE CITY'S WEB SITE

NOTICES ABOUT SNOW ALERTS, WATCHES and emergencies are now posted on the front page of the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

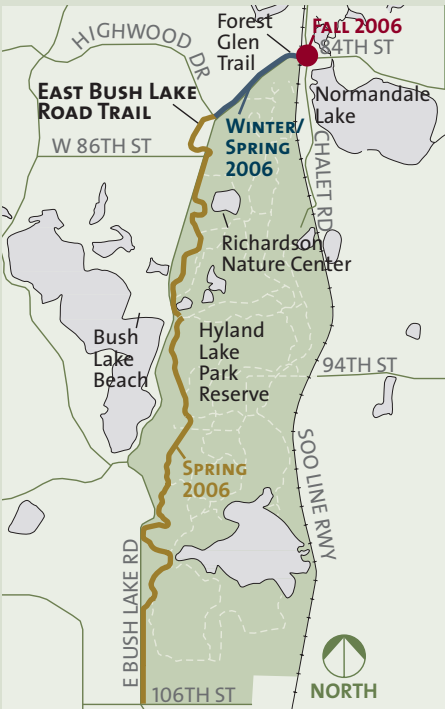
## TASTE OF JAPAN



### BSCO CULTURAL EVENING

JOIN THE BLOOMINGTON Sister City Organization (BSCO) for an evening of Japanese food and entertainment,

interactive activities and a silent auction. Taste of Japan will be held on **Saturday, March 11**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call 952-563-8713.



## EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD TRAIL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

PEDESTRIAN AND BIKEWAY improvements that began last June along East Bush Lake Road from 105th to 84th Street are continuing this winter. Over the last few months, Xcel Energy has been performing utility relocations, including tree trimming and removals, along East Bush Lake Road between Highwood Drive and 84th Street. Trail improvements are now underway in this area. When completed, new and existing trails will create a 3.34-mile trail with access to Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bush Lake Beach, Richardson Nature Preserve, Forest Glen Trail and Normandale Lake. Completion of the trail from 105th Street to west of 84th Street is scheduled for summer 2006. Connection to 84th Street at Chalet Road will begin in fall 2006. For more information, call 952-563-4914.

## A POTHOLE PRIMER WARMER WINTER WEATHER PRODUCES POTHOLES

UNSEASONABLY WARM WEATHER HAS potholes popping up all over. Street Maintenance is busy repairing potholes that usually aren't a concern until spring.

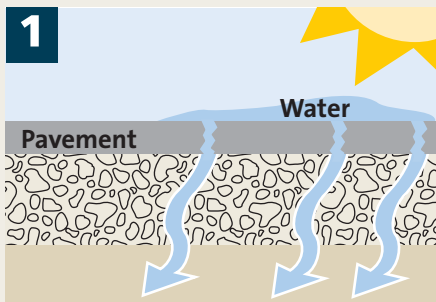
"There are more potholes this year because warmer weather has increased

freeze/thaw cycles. Snow and ice melt during the day, seep into cracks, freeze at night and pop out the pavement," Street Maintenance Supervisor Jim Eiler said.

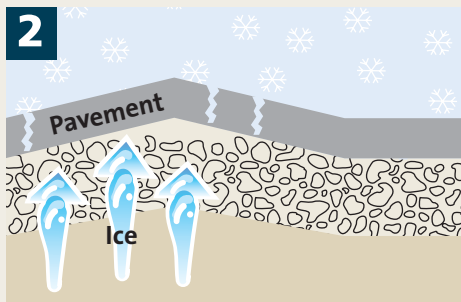
"Weather permitting, we try to send the crews out everyday to fill potholes."

Every effort is made to repair potholes within 24 hours of notification. To report potholes, call Maintenance at 952-563-8760 or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Potholes.

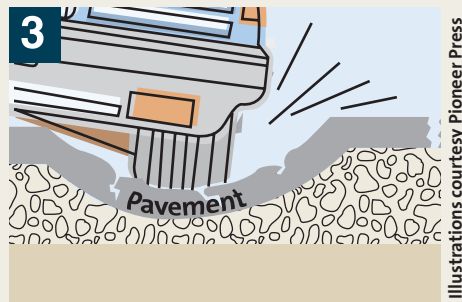
### EVOLUTION OF A POTHOLE



Warm weather melts ice and snow, filling pavement cracks with water.



As temperatures drop, the water freezes and expands, breaking up the pavement.



Traffic further breaks up the surface, creating potholes.

Illustrations courtesy Pioneer Press

## BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION HOUSING, HOTEL AND CENTRAL PARK ENVISIONED IN NEXT PHASES

A TRAIN ARRIVING AT THE MALL OF AMERICA LAST NOVEMBER CARRIED HIAWATHA LIGHT-Rail Line's 10 millionth customer, nine months ahead of Metro Transit's schedule. The Hiawatha Line has become the most popular transit route in the region and development along the line is accelerating.

McGough Development, who is using Bloomington Central light-rail station as the focal point of its \$700 million development project, is gearing up to begin construction on its next phases, moving Airport South closer to a transit-oriented development district.

**Reflections**, right, is Bloomington Central Station's first phase. The 263-unit condominium project is scheduled for completion this June. Approximately 85 percent of the units have already been sold.

The project's next phases include a **150-unit condominium and townhome complex** with underground parking, *below right*, a 350-room full-service hotel and a 1.5-acre central park. Construction could begin in the spring after plans are approved.

The 43-acre Bloomington Central Station development project will be built in five phases over 12 years. To view an animated version of the project, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Central Station. For more information, call 952-563-8925.



Phase I: Reflections.



Phase II: 150-unit residential complex.



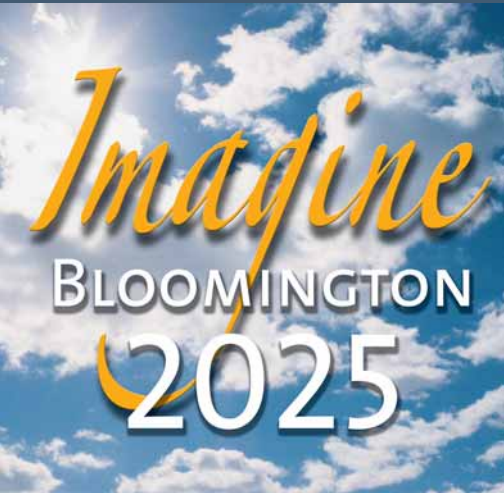
The 1.5-acre park, above, designed to reflect the surrounding architecture, will be located at the center of the development. Construction of the \$3.5 million park will be funded with \$800,000 in transit-oriented development grants from Hennepin County and \$2.7 million in grants from the Metropolitan Council. Proposed amenities include seating areas, garden rooms, water features, and paved and lighted walkways. The public park will be maintained and operated by McGough.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

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MAYOR’S COLUMN

AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

IMAGINE BLOOMINGTON IN 2025. WHERE IS our community headed and where do we want to be? What challenges will we face and how will we meet them? To answer these and other questions, the City Council is beginning a strategic planning process to define the community's long-range goals.

It is important to consider how we will meet future challenges that include an aging population, traffic congestion and different types of housing. The strategic action plan will define the City's strategy for development, redevelopment, City services, infrastructure, and how to maintain fiscal strength and stability over the next 20 years.

Strategic planning should be an ongoing process. In fact, this is not the first time a strategic plan has been prepared for Bloomington. In 1990, the City, the School District, the Chamber of Commerce and Normandale Community College initiated *Vision Bloomington 1995*. Representing the highest priority issues selected by residents and City leaders, the plan's goals envisioned a community with a quality education system, financial responsibility, leadership in transportation issues, communication between residents and local government, and strong and active businesses (specifically the Mall of America under construction at the time).

In 1995, the City also began a two-year strategic plan and budgeting cycle

along with strategic planning every four to five years.

Today, Bloomington enjoys award-winning schools that feature state-of-the-art facilities, excellent financial strength with the highest bond ratings awarded by three credit agencies, property taxes that are among the lowest in the metropolitan area, transportation improvements that include light-rail transit, American Boulevard and the widening of I-494, and a highly successful Mall of America that has become an active community partner.

The visioning process has already begun. City staff is researching economic, demographic, technological, social and transportation trends most likely to affect Bloomington. The findings will help refine the city’s mission and vision and help identify initiatives that can be implemented in five-year action plans.

Success begins with a plan and people willing to participate. Everyone is a stakeholder in the future direction of the community. The next steps will be gathering input from residents, businesses, schools and community leaders who will be key to imagining Bloomington’s objectives and strategies for 2025.

For information, call Assistant City Manager Clark Arneson at 952-563-8921 or visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Imagine Bloomington.



BRIEFING

Volume 14, Number 1

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

Web site: [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

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*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY LEADERS  
FORMER COUNCILMEMBERS REFLECT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

FORMER COUNCILMEMBERS DAVE ABRAMS AND HEATHER HARDEN, WHO BOTH LEFT THE Council in December 2005, share their thoughts on community service.

DAVE ABRAMS



PROUD TO BE PART OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

DAVE ABRAMS, COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE since September 2000, decided not to seek reelection last fall in order to spend more time with his family.

“I owe it to my kids and to myself to spend more time with them,” Abrams said. “But I plan to stay involved in the community, especially through their school activities.”

Some decisions Abrams is most proud of were passing the smoking ordinance and casting the deciding vote

on the revitalization of 84th Street and Lyndale Avenue where a new Cub Foods store, a retail center, a 95-unit senior cooperative, 46 townhouses and a one-acre public park were constructed. *See page 4.* Abrams also said it was an honor to serve with a great group of community leaders.

“The City Council is a very thoughtful, nonpartisan group focused on good government,” Abrams said. “I am proud to have been part of that.”

HEATHER HARDEN



FINDING NEW WAYS TO SERVE

HEATHER HARDEN, DISTRICT II Councilmember from 2001 - 2005, said she is most proud of Council’s support of the arts community. Harden said since the Bloomington Center for the Arts was constructed, it has become a magnet for artists and people interested in the arts.

“The Center for the Arts has created a sense of community for a large segment of Bloomington,” Harden said. “One of the things I’ve enjoyed most is walking in the building almost any night and seeing teenagers gathering.”

Harden is also glad to have been part of the revitalization of some older areas of Bloomington.

“It’s a never-ending task to continue refurbishing the community,” she said. “It serves us well to keep our city vibrant and alive, which will attract new business and new customers.”

Involved in the community her entire adult life, Harden will return to charity work, primarily fundraising, and find new ways to serve Bloomington in non-elected office.



# 2006 CITY PROPERTY TAXES

## COUNCIL APPROVES GENERAL FUND BUDGET

IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN QUALITY services at an affordable price, the City Council adopted a General Fund Budget of \$47,226,472, an increase that has averaged 2.77 percent per year since 2003.

The City Council approved a tax levy for 2006 of \$38,167,181. General Fund property taxes have increased only 4.69 percent over the past five years, from \$26.4 million in 2002 to \$31.7 million in 2006. Part of the increase was due to the City’s loss of \$3.2 million in state aid payments during that period.

Based on this tax levy, the City’s portion of property taxes – approximately 34 percent – will increase from \$57.14 to \$60.50 per month for the owner of a median-priced single-family home with a 2005 market value of \$231,200. The median-valued home increased 7.8 percent in 2005 – a \$16,800 appreciation in asset value of the investment in the home.

### Conservative increase

“Including the 2006 increase, the City’s total levy dollar increase averaged 3.17 percent annually over the last 13 years,” explained Lori Economy-Scholler, Bloomington Chief Financial Officer. “The City’s strong financial position and conservative spending pattern have helped keep tax increases low as

evidenced by the City’s achievement of the highest bond ratings from Standard and Poor’s, Moody’s and Fitch credit rating agencies.”

### Home value increases

A strong residential property market, moderate market increases for other property types and the state’s 2001 property tax reform increased overall residential property taxes for 2006. These factors also shifted the burden for the City’s share of taxes from commercial/industrial and apartment properties to single-family residential properties. In addition, the City will not receive payment of \$1 million in market value credit from the state in 2006. The median-valued home’s total property taxes have increased at an annual rate of 5.5 percent per year for the past 12 years and, as a percentage of market value, have decreased 1.2 percent per year for the same period.

### Responsible budgeting

The City made adjustments in 2002 through 2005 for declining local revenues. Even with the loss of state monies in 2006, the City has an ongoing commitment to provide cost-effective services while minimizing increases.

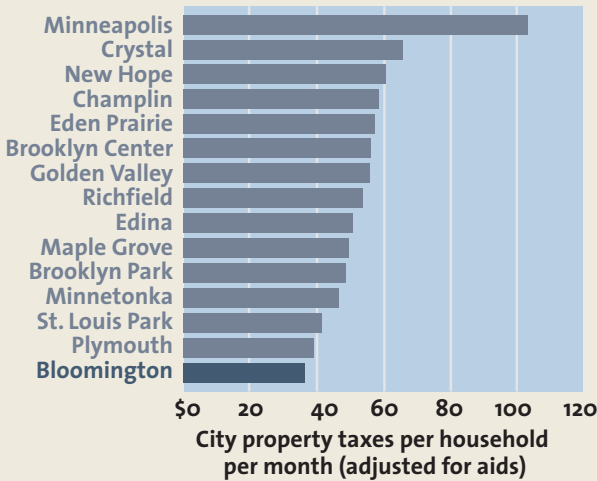
In a 2005 comparison of 15 communities in Hennepin County with

more than 20,000 residents, the average household cost of services in terms of property taxes and property tax aids (when adjusted for Fiscal Disparities) showed Bloomington ranking lowest, with the average household paying \$36.30 per month in property taxes to the City. (The comparison was based on all households, including single-family homes.) *See bar graph at above right.*

Public works, police and fire services account for about 75 percent of the monthly services for which homeowners pay. *See chart at right.*

From 1995 through 2002, utility fees remained unchanged. For 2006, utility fees will increase \$1.64, or 5.1 percent per month, for an annual average increase of 2.2 percent since 1995.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD COST OF SERVICES IN 2005 FOR 15 HENNEPIN COUNTY CITIES



MONTHLY COST FOR CITY SERVICES

Service type*	2005	2006
Police	\$17.49	\$19.18
Public Works	14.13	15.10
Community Services	7.93	8.56
Debt and capital	6.25	4.73
Fire	6.30	4.93
Community Development	2.80	3.16
Technical Services	2.24	2.51
Strategic Priorities	—	2.33
Monthly total for City services	\$57.14	\$60.50
Median home value	\$214,400	\$231,200

\*Revised for final levy.

# PARTNERSHIP MONITORS AIRCRAFT COMPLIANCE

## NEW RUNWAY OPERATIONS AT MSP

AIRCRAFT USING THE NEW 17-35 RUNWAY that opened in October at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport have caused increased noise for some Bloomington properties. Prior to the opening, the City Council and the City of Bloomington worked with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to ensure that operational measures would be implemented to reduce noise impacts on residents.

A runway departure procedure called the 2.5 Nautical Mile Turn Point was established as a method for reducing flights over residential areas west of Cedar Avenue. The intent of the procedure is that departing aircraft will fly over undeveloped land in the Minnesota River Valley and reach a higher altitude before turning toward Bloomington and destinations to the west. *See map.* One of the primary concerns for Bloomington residents has been pilot compliance with this departure procedure.

During the first few weeks of use, 85 percent of westbound aircraft were complying with the turn point procedure. At the end of December, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) changed its instructions to pilots, resulting in an improved 98 percent compliance with the procedure.

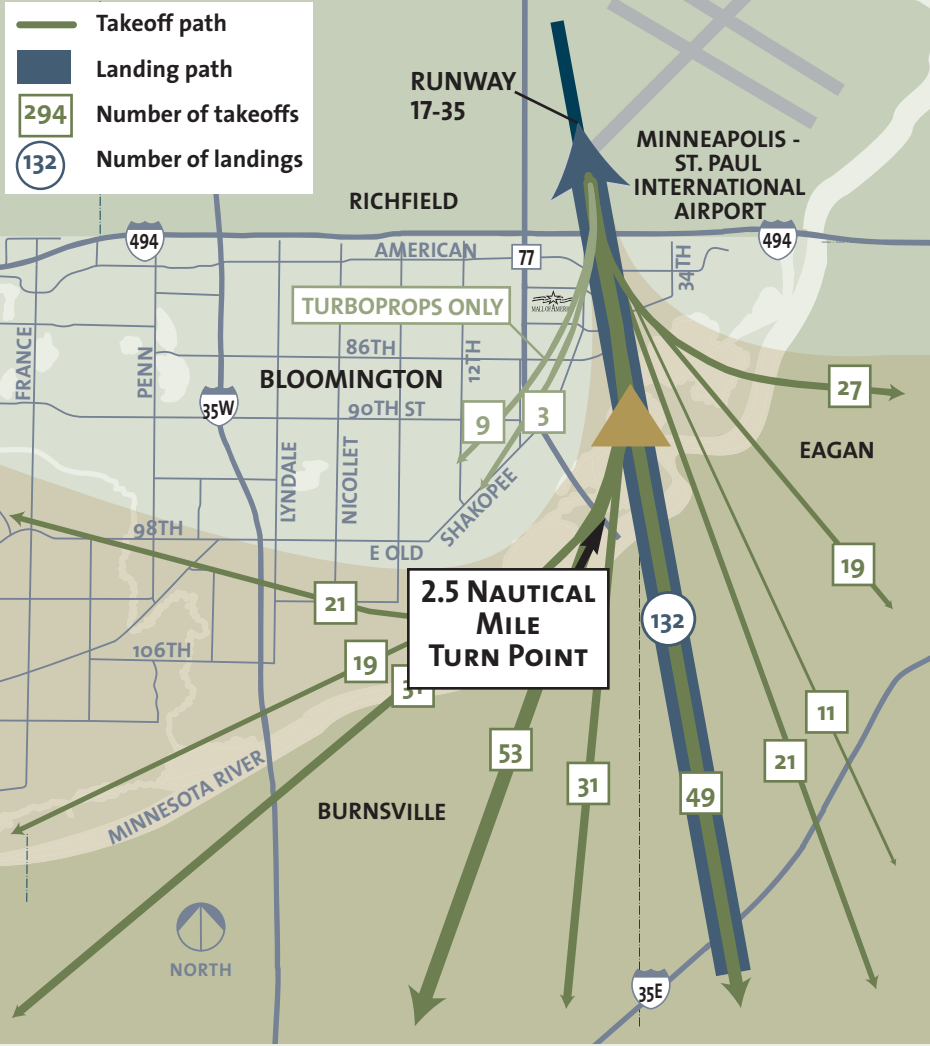
“Our compliance goal is 100 percent,” Chad Leque, Manager of Aviation Noise and Satellite Programs at MAC, said. “MAC is continuing to review flight track data and talk with the FAA and pilots to ensure the highest degree of compliance with the procedure.”

The City continues to work with MAC and the FAA to monitor aircraft noise impact in Bloomington. The City Council will meet with MAC and the FAA in February to discuss aircraft compliance with departure procedures.

For more information, call MAC’s Noise Complaint and Information Line at 612-726-9411 or visit [www.macnoise.com](http://www.macnoise.com).



RUNWAY 17-35 DAILY TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS BASED ON 2007 ANNUAL AVERAGE DAY



An average of 294 takeoffs and 132 landings will use Runway 17-35 each day by 2007. Through December, use of the runway was about half of these rates. The FAA expects the number of aircraft on 17-35 to increase in 2006. To reduce noise impacts over populated areas in Bloomington, the 2.5 Nautical Mile Turn Point procedure directs westbound aircraft departing Runway 17 over the Minnesota River Valley before turning west on their assigned headings.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

MAC will conduct two additional public input meetings this spring to report on runway operations and answer residents’ questions. The meetings will take place at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, April 25	7 p.m.	Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 20	6:30 p.m.	Schneider Theater





**IN MEMORIAM**  
**BLOOMINGTON'S FIRST VILLAGE**  
**MANAGER PASSES AWAY**

FRANK H. LAWLER, BLOOMINGTON'S FIRST Village Manager, passed away in November. Lawler was hired in May 1956 when Bloomington changed from a Mayor to a Council/Manager form of government. He served until May 1958.

Lawler was Manager during a huge population and development growth phase for the Village of Bloomington. Major projects completed in 1956 included I-35W, Met Stadium and Bush Lake Beach.

Lawler also served as city manager in Abilene, Kansas; Newton, Kansas; Ottuma, Iowa; and West Palm Beach, Florida. He became the first city administrator for the city of Leawood, Kansas, in 1976. According to his daughter-in-law Margaret, Lawler was "passionate about his work and truly loved city government."

Lawler lived in Overland Park, Kansas. He was 86.

**BLOOMINGTON**  
**CONVENTION AND**  
**VISITORS BUREAU**  
**2005 GOLD SERVICE**  
**AWARD WINNER**



THE BLOOMINGTON CONVENTION AND Visitors Bureau (BCVB) was honored with Meetings and Conventions Magazine's Gold Service Award in December. The award honors convention and visitors bureaus that have demonstrated overall excellence, professionalism and dedication in their service to meeting professionals.

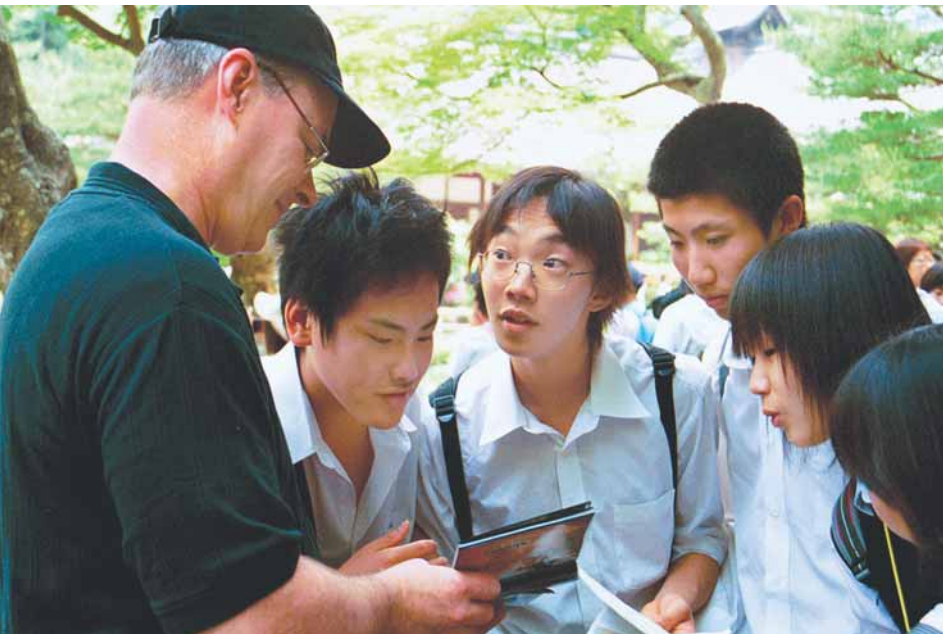
"We are honored to receive the prestigious Gold Service Award," said Shawn Corwin, Vice President of Sales. "At the BCVB, we know it is important to exceed our clients' expectations. That our clients chose to recognize how much they value our people and our services through this award is heartwarming."

The Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau promotes Bloomington, its hotels, businesses and attractions to visitors from around the world. Its primary funding is from a 2 percent tax on hotel rooms.

For more information, visit [www.bloomingtonmn.org](http://www.bloomingtonmn.org).

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

**EXPERIENCE JAPANESE CULTURE**  
**JOIN THE SISTER CITY DELEGATION TO IZUMI CITY**



APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF A Bloomington delegation to visit Izumi City, Japan, **August 30 to September 6**. Izumi City, Bloomington's Sister City since 1993, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The delegation will offer a great opportunity to learn more about Japanese culture and meet new friends. For more information or an application, call 952-563-8713, e-mail [sistercity@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:sistercity@ci.bloomington.mn.us) or visit [www.bloomington-izumi.org](http://www.bloomington-izumi.org).

**HUMAN SERVICES FAMILINK**  
**SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE MINNESOTA WORKFORCE CENTER**

HUMAN SERVICES FAMILINK IS NOW AVAILABLE **THURSDAYS, 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**, at the Minnesota WorkForce Center, 4220 W. Old Shakopee Road. If you would like information on housing, financial assistance, health insurance, legal services, childcare or other issues, FamiLink staff will clarify your needs, discuss possible resources and get you connected to appropriate services. Human Services FamiLink serves individuals who live, work, attend school or are involved in activities in Bloomington. FamiLink staff is also available at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S., Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., or by calling 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CREEKSIDE**  
**INFORMATION AND SERVICES YOU CAN USE**

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 9801 PENN AVE. S., HOUSES THE HUMAN Services Senior Program. For more information on the following programs, call the Human Services Volunteer Desk at 952-563-4873; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

**FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE**

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE IS available at Creekside on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who meet income-qualifying guidelines. Tax assistance includes these programs:

**ACCOUNTABILITY MINNESOTA**

AccountAbility Minnesota will assist individuals with incomes of \$27,000 or less, and families with incomes of \$37,000 or less on **Saturdays, February 4 - April 15, 9 a.m. - noon** and **Tuesdays, February 7 - April 11, 6 - 9 p.m.**

**TAX FORMS AVAILABLE AT CREEKSIDE**

Federal tax forms are available for photocopying at Creekside.

**FREE CELL PHONES TO ACCESS 911**

RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT OWN CELL phones and are ages 55 or older or have disabilities or medical conditions may register for free cell phones refurbished to access 911 emergency services only. Phones will be distributed **Saturday,**

**April 22, 9 and 10 a.m.**, at Creekside. A monthly fee is not needed to access 911. Individuals who receive cell phones must attend a brief orientation on distribution day. To register, call the Volunteer Desk. This program is made possible by Qwest Pioneers.



**THE BEST IN**  
**REDEVELOPMENT**  
**LYNDALE GREEN PROJECT**  
**RECEIVES STARR AWARD**

THE LYNDALE GREEN REDEVELOPMENT project at 84th Street and Lyndale Avenue was recently honored with the Minnesota Shopping Center Association's 2005 STARR (Shopping Center Tribute Award for Retail Real Estate) Award for best redevelopment. The project transformed an obsolete warehouse, grocery store and adjacent vacant building into a new neighborhood shopping area that includes the 95-unit Applewood Pointe Senior Cooperative, 38 townhomes and 12 "brownstone-styled" row homes, a new Cub Foods store, a 10,800-square-foot retail building and one-acre public park that will be completed this summer.

The STARR awards are presented annually to recognize excellence in the retail and shopping center industry. Lyndale Green was a cooperative effort among Bloomington-based United Properties, the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the City of Bloomington.

**AARP'S DEFENSIVE DRIVING**  
**CLASSES**

MINNESOTA LAW MANDATES A 10 PERCENT reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 and older who complete a defensive driving course. Classes are offered monthly. Cost is \$10. To register, call the Volunteer Desk.

**MINNESOTA SENIOR FEDERATION**  
**2006 MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG**  
**PLAN PREVIEW AVAILABLE**

TO RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF THE MEDICARE prescription and health plan options, call the Volunteer Desk or stop by Creekside.

**INDOOR HIKING**

IN FEBRUARY, THE HIKING Club will meet **Tuesdays** at **8:30 a.m.** to board the bus at Creekside and travel to Twin Cities' malls and skyways for indoor walks. The group will return at 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Creekside will follow the last hike on February 28. Cost is \$33. For more information, call 952-563-4949.



**CELL PHONE DONATIONS NEEDED**

To donate a working cell phone with a wall charger that was purchased within the last five years, drop it off at Creekside. Qwest Pioneers' volunteers will clear the phones of personal data and reprogram them to access 911.



GOOD REASONS TO CLEAN



REMINDER! Appliances such as water heaters, washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers and dehumidifiers are accepted at the curb. Limit two per house. You do not need to call ahead for pickup.

SPRING 2006 CURBSIDE CLEANUP COLLECTION DATES

If you live:	And regular trash day is:	2006 Curbside pickup is Saturday:
East of Portland	Monday	April 8
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	April 22
Penn to France	Wednesday	April 29
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 6
West of Normandale	Friday	May 20


2006 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTS THE 7TH Annual Citywide Garage Sales to be held Thursday - Saturday, June 1 - 3. Watch for more details in the April Briefing. For more information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.




HURDLES OVERCOME ANSWERS TO YOUR RECYCLING DILEMMAS

DON'T LET THESE STUMBLING BLOCKS GET IN THE WAY OF CONSERVING OUR PRECIOUS natural resources.

 **My container is full.**  
Good job recycling! Call your waste hauler who can provide you with extra containers.

 **There's no room in my house for recyclables.**  
Try placing a recycling container next to your trash can. Store paper out of sight by using a decorative basket for newspapers, magazines and mixed mail.

 **I don't have enough recyclables to bother.**  
Many of us focus on recycling in the kitchen but forget about products

consumed in laundry rooms, bathrooms and garages, including detergent, shampoo and lotion bottles, toilet paper cores, tissue boxes, scrap metal, etc.

 **Recycling takes too much time.**  
Recycling is now easier than ever. You don't have to remove labels or take the plastic windows out of envelopes. Glass, plastic or metal containers can all be mixed together – no sorting! Newspaper, including the glossy ads, and mixed mail can also be placed in a paper bag together.  
*Source: Anoka County Integrated Waste Management.*



PLANT A TREE ON YOUR LOT CITY TREE SALE THIS SPRING

EACH YEAR, THE CITY PLANTS TREES in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington's urban forest continues to be one of the community's many treasures. Most of the 2,250 diseased elm and oak trees marked for removal last year were located on residential lots. The City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance will hold a public tree sale.

Based on last year's sales of just over 200 trees, approximately 220 trees will be for sale this spring. Quantity and species of trees available include: 80 Autumn Blaze Maples; 80 Northwoods Red Maples; 20 Hackberries; 20 Bur Oaks and 20 Swamp White Oaks. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

To purchase a tree, fill out the form to the right and mail it, along with a check payable to the "City of Bloomington." To download the form, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Tree sale.



TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. Trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to two inches in diameter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in number of each tree type desired.  
Maximum 5 trees total per household,  
\$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ Swamp White Oak	_____ Bur Oak	_____ Hackberry
_____ Northwoods Rubrum (Red) Maple		_____ Autumn Blaze Maple
Total trees _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____ Total cost		

Pick up trees at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road on Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HEROES FRIENDS OF THE BLUEBERRIES

Friends of the Blueberries, Dave Hanson, Cyndi Osberg, Shannon Rohr, Laima Dingley, Adrienne O'Neal, Elizabeth Shevi and Chele Kovacevick show off their green thumbs in the photo above.

A NATURAL MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENT is reflected in the landscape surrounding Bloomington Civic Plaza. Native grasses, black-eyed Susans, Norway pines, quaking aspens, a wetland and pond create a park for visitors to enjoy. One unique planting around the building is the Northblue Blueberries.

A group of City of Bloomington employees who love to garden took interest in the blueberries growing outside their windows. They are providing some extra care so that the plants will continue to bear fruit. They call themselves Friends of the Blueberries, but the group is already covering more ground.

The volunteers met after work last fall to plant almost 250 native species, including wild bergamot, blue flag iris, New England aster and cardinal flower, in a wet area on Civic Plaza's east side where shrubs had difficulty growing. Plants native to Minnesota are hardier, often take less maintenance and rarely require any pesticides or fertilizers.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Chele Kovacevick hopes the group's work will encourage others with talents and interests to make their own contributions to the community.

"Our work is about showing pride in the place where we spend a large part of our day," Kovacevick said. "Besides, it'll be fun to see what comes up this spring."

When the City Council decided to locate Civic Plaza at the corner of 98th Street

and Old Shakopee Road, one of the goals was that the revitalized parcel would create a gateway to the community. Park Maintenance's Dave Hanson, whose job is to maintain Civic Plaza, said he takes pride in ensuring that the grounds look their best.

"People may never take the time to go in the building, but many drive by everyday and the impression they get is important," Hanson said. "This group is doing a great job and it can only get better."

Environmental Health Program Coordinator Shannon Rohr knows the importance of maintaining property appearance. She enforces the City's nuisance ordinance that helps keep Bloomington's residential neighborhoods looking good. Rohr said that when City property looks its best, it sets an example for the whole community.

"The City's resources are limited and we are just providing care that goes above and beyond the normal maintenance of the facility," Rohr said. "If we volunteer by doing what we enjoy, that is a bonus."



YOUTH ACTIVITIES  
ACTIVE KIDS ARE HEALTHY KIDS



GIDEON POND HOUSE  
POND-DAKOTA MISSION PARK  
401 E. 104TH ST.

POND-DAKOTA MISSION PARK IS THE site of the Gideon Pond House that was constructed in 1856. Listed on both the National and Minnesota Registers of Historic Places, the restored Federal-style, two-story brick house is open for tours on the **third Sunday of each month from 1:30 - 4 p.m.** Admission is free. Tours are available by appointment.

OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Lois Glewwe presents the life and work of Jane Williamson, a Protestant missionary and teacher to the Dakota Indians at Lac Qui Parle, Kaposia and Traverse des Sioux during the 1830s - 1860s, on **Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m.**

Jeff Williamson presents the Williamson, Pond and Hopkins families and the Dakota Mission on **Sunday, March 19, 2 p.m.**

Visit the park to learn more about our community's heritage. Events are free. For more information, call 952-563-9693.

*Photo courtesy of Bloomington Historical Society.*



ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND LEARNING Exchange (AR&LE) offers recreational, leisure and community education programs that are specifically designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities in the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. For information, call Parks and Recreation or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Adaptive Recreation.

Inclusion services provided

Under the direction of the Assistant Parks and Recreation Manager, inclusion services allow participants with disabilities to fully participate in Parks and Recreation programs. For more information, call Parks and Recreation or e-mail [parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

BLOOMINGTON  
ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION  
(BAA)

BAA OFFERS BASEBALL AND softball programs for boys and girls, age 5 through 12, including a mini-mite program for kids, age 5. For information on programs, call the BAA Information Line at 952-888-0807 or visit [www.baaonline.org](http://www.baaonline.org).

ADULT SPORTS

ADULT TENNIS DRILLS

TAUGHT BY A CERTIFIED TENNIS instructor, drills are practice sessions to improve stroke production.

When: Session I:  
February 16 - March 23.  
Session II:  
March 30 - May 4.

Times: Thursdays  
*Beginner* 7 - 8 p.m.  
*Intermed.* 8 - 9 p.m.

Where: 98th Street Northwest Athletic Club,  
100 W. 98th St.

Cost: \$60 for six, one-hour lessons.

Limit: Eight per class; minimum four.

DAYTIME VOLLEYBALL

EXERCISE AND ENJOY VOLLEYBALL YEAR-round. Teams form each time you play.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Where: Bloomington National Guard Armory,  
3300 W. 98th St.

Time: *Beginner* 9 - 11 a.m.  
*Intermed.* 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cost: \$2 each session.

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL  
LEAGUE

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL League welcomes men, 55 years and over, with all levels of playing ability. For more information, call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Time: *Warm-up* 8:45 a.m.  
*Games* 9 a.m.

Where: Kennedy High School Activity Center,  
98th St. and Nicollet Ave. S.

MEN’S, WOMEN’S AND  
CO-REC SOFTBALL

When: One evening per week, starting April 28.

Where: Valley View and Dred Scott playfields.

Cost per team: \$535 - Recreation  
\$760 - Fast pitch and doubleheader.

Deadline: March 10.

PLAY BALL!

TIME TO GEAR UP FOR A season of adult softball. More than 300 teams compete throughout the summer and fall.

Hosted at the Dred Scott and Valley View Playfields, leagues are for adults, ages 18 and older. Divisions include men’s, men’s fast pitch, women’s and co-rec.

Leagues form in March and play May through July. Teams are sanctioned in both Minnesota softball associations, the ASA and USSSA. Play ranges from competitive to recreational levels.

For information, call Recreation Supervisor Jason Hicks at 952-563-8880. or e-mail [jhicks@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhicks@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

BLOOMINGTON LOVES ITS KIDS CARNIVAL

When: Saturday, February 25, 12:30 - 3 p.m.  
Where: Northwestern Health Sciences University, 84th and Penn Ave.

GAMES, EXHIBITS, POLICE AND FIRE DEMONSTRATIONS, FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT are featured at this fun, free event for kids and families. Please bring a food item for the VEAP food shelf.

SPRING EGG HUNT  
FOR CHILDREN, AGES 8 AND UNDER

When: Saturday, April 15,  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Where: Northwestern Health Sciences University,  
84th and Penn Ave.

Time: Activities begin 9:30 a.m., hunt 11 a.m.

ENJOY SNACKS, GAMES, PHOTOS WITH THE Bunny, entertainment and more. This “eggs”traordinary annual event is sponsored by Parks and Recreation, the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club and Northwestern Health Sciences University.



SUMMER SPECTRUM  
SUPER SIGN-UP SATURDAY!

When: Saturday, April 8.  
Time: 9 - 11 a.m.  
Where: Bloomington Civic Plaza,  
1800 W. Old Shakopee Road

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ASK questions, organize your child’s summer and register in one place. Summer Spectrum, an eight-week collaborative program between Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Community Education and the Bloomington

Art Center, offers summer activities for youth, complete with transportation and child care. Look for more information on all of the Summer Spectrum programs when the brochure is delivered in late March. For more information, call Parks and Recreation or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Spectrum.

GALAXY YOUTH CENTER

Where: Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Ave.

Hours: Monday - Friday 2:20 - 6 p.m.  
Bus home: 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

Where: Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 W. 106th St.  
Olson Middle School, 4551 W. 102nd St.

Hours: Monday - Friday 2:20 - 5 p.m.  
Bus home: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$1 daily.

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS, LOCATED IN ALL THREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS, SERVE YOUTH IN grades 6 through 8 who live or go to school in Bloomington. Galaxy provides recreation, enrichment and developmental programming. Come to Galaxy and learn about other countries in Culture Club, play basketball in open gym, learn how to knit or just hang out with your friends. Need help with homework? Each site offers homework help and fun learning activities to work your brain.

For more information, call 952-681-6124.



THIS FRIENDLY COMPETITION CHALLENGES employees to shape up! Bloomington worksite coordinators receive special training and all materials needed to participate in the contest that runs **from April 24 to June 2**. Every week, employees record points for aerobic, strength-training and flexibility activities. Trophies are

awarded to the companies with the most points per employee. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, this is a great way to introduce fitness, team spirit and a little fun into your workplace. Call Randi Wallenberg in Parks and Recreation for more information and sign up by April 14.



## CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City's Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Calendar.

## EXHIBITIONS

## BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

952-563-8587

## INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

*Linear Expressions*, featuring artists Marcia McEachron and Polly Norman, runs **through February 10**.

*The Gag Collection – Three Generations of Gag Artists*, featuring Anton, Wanda and Flavia Gag with Edward Harm, runs **February 17 - March 24**. Opening reception is Friday, February 17, 6 - 8 p.m.



“Barn in Winter” by Flavia Gag

## GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

*On Firm Ground*, featuring the photography of artist Larry Kanfer, and *Life on the Farm*, featuring the photography of artist Dean Riggott, runs **March 31 - May 5**. Opening reception is Friday, March 31, 6 - 8 p.m.



“American View” by Larry Kanfer



“Canoes in the Water” by Mike Kramer

## ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR

*Frozen in Light: Photographs by Glenn Grafelman* runs **through February 24**.

*Many Landscapes in Nature*, featuring artist Mike Kramer, runs **March 2 - April 14**. Opening reception is Thursday, March 2, 6 - 8 p.m.

## SCHNEIDER THEATER

## THURSDAY MUSICAL

*The Thursday Morning Artist Series* classical music concerts are performed on **Thursdays, February 9, March 9 and 23, and April 6**. Tickets are \$10 adults; \$6 students. Season tickets are \$60; \$50 for seniors. For more information, call 612-333-0313 or visit [www.thursdaymusical.com](http://www.thursdaymusical.com).



*Jesus Christ Superstar* will be performed **through February 26**. The performance features the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyrics by Tim Rice. Songs include “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “I Don’t Know How To Love Him,” “The Last Supper” and “Heaven On Their Minds.” Tickets are \$24. For reservations, call 952-563-8575 or visit [www.bloomintoncivictheatre.org](http://www.bloomintoncivictheatre.org).

## MEDALIST CONCERT BAND

Professor Jerry Luckhardt and the band will perform *Musique Française* on **Monday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.** The concert features “Paris Sketches,” composer Martin Ellerby’s homage to the City of Lights, and “Suite Française,” Darius Milhaud’s composition in gratitude to Americans’ contribution to the Allied victory in World War II. For reservations, call 952-563-8583. Tickets will also be available at the door.

## BLACK BOX THEATER

## GALLERY THEATER COMPANY

*Pure as the Driven Snow or A Working Girl’s Secret*, an old-fashioned melodrama in three acts, will be performed **Thursdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 2 p.m.**, **February 16 - March 5**. The March 5 performance will be American Sign Language interpreted. Tickets are \$12 adults; \$10 seniors/students/groups of 12 or more. For reservations, call 952-563-8587.



BENEFITTING THE BLOOMINGTON FINE ARTS COUNCIL

## MIDWEST DESSERT COMPETITION

Sponsored by *Minnesota Monthly*, The Toro Company and HealthPartners **Sunday, March 19, 1 - 5 p.m.**

**Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road**

- Sample savory chocolates.
- One dozen chefs and chocolatiers.
- Entertainment by arts groups.
- Huge silent auction.
- Raffle drawing for fabulous prizes.
- Best chocolate dessert and confection awards.
- Featuring chocolates by B.T. McElrath, Bluewater Grill Hilton Airport, Carousel Restaurant – Radisson Riverfront Hotel, Creative Confectionaire, Chez Jude – Grand Marais, Gracious Gifts, Jamie’s Truffles, Mr. B. Chocolatier, Muddy Paws Cheesecake, Ramada Inn – Mall of America, River Chocolate Company and Seasons at Dolce Oak Ridge.

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. For information or tickets, call 952-563-8567 or visit [www.tasteofchocolate.org](http://www.tasteofchocolate.org).

## ART NEVER TASTED THIS GOOD!



## CIVIC PLAZA LOBBY

## BLOOMINGTON WRITERS’ FESTIVAL

## A CELEBRATION OF THE LITERARY ARTS

Whether you are an in-training or published author, want to start writing or just love to read, don’t miss the 3rd Annual Bloomington Writers’ Festival, **Saturday, April 1**. The festival will include four workshops plus an afternoon session. Topics include Beginning Life Stories, More About Life Stories, Magazine/Freelance Writing and Strategies for Getting Your Work Published. Workshops are \$8 each or three for \$20. The afternoon session features authors, book readings and signings, and a keynote speaker. Cost is a suggested donation of \$3 - 5.



## THE BEST-KEPT SECRET IN TOWN

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VIDEO production? Do you have a topic you’re passionate about? Maybe it’s time to produce your own TV show? Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) is the place to make that happen.

BCAT members have access to professional equipment and training. The facility boasts a broadcast studio with three cameras, a control room, two edit suites, four video cameras, tripods, microphones and more. Classes on how to use the equipment are also offered.

Make your voice heard. Music videos, talk shows, documentaries, discussion groups, narratives, community events, classes, spoken word, educational programs – whatever you create – will air on Bloomington Cable Channel 16. Membership is \$45 for individuals and \$100 for organizations.

BCAT is located on the second floor of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. For more information, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: BCAT, or call Amanda Taylor at 952-563-4980.







## SPRUCE UP YOUR DWELLING

### HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is now accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$30,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year rate for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

**Eligible repairs** include: replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems; gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia; exterior painting and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

**Ineligible repairs** include: decorating; additions; finishing basements; remodeling and garage construction. Homeowner labor will no longer be permitted, due to federal lead paint regulations.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan. Income guidelines apply. *See table below.*

### INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$40,600
2	\$40,600
3	\$52,200
4	\$58,000
5	\$62,650
6	\$67,300
7	\$71,900
8 or more	\$76,500

\* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.

\*\* Subject to change.



Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 10, 2006. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

# WE'RE HERE TO HELP

## How can we serve you today?

### CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

#### BLOOMINGTON’S REAL-LIFE CRIME TECH PROGRAM

ON AUGUST 17, 2005, BLOOMINGTON POLICE officers responded to an attempted burglary and noticed a trace of blood near the window where the suspect tried to gain entry. Crime Tech Kim Peterson collected the evidence that was then processed. The DNA results matched a local convicted felon.

Before the Crime Tech Program began in 2004, Police relied on an outside agency to gather and process evidence. Today, the Police maintain their own equipment and trained staff.

“We use Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office crime labs for collecting evidence from major crimes,” Sergeant Todd Lewis said. “But now that we can do it ourselves, we have more insight into investigations and can better use resources.”



Twelve police officers are trained in crime-scene processing, including latent fingerprinting, impression casting and photography, crime-scene diagramming and retrieval of biological and trace evidence.

“With a little investment in training and equipment we knew we could enhance service to our citizens,” said Police Chief John Laux. “The bottom line is more criminals are going to jail because we have this program.”

Two years ago, a Bloomington jewelry store was robbed. The suspect left blood evidence behind and the Police were able to establish a DNA profile. They now have an arrest warrant for the suspect’s DNA that does not expire under the statute of limitations – one of the first law enforcement agencies in the country



**All stolen vehicles are dusted for fingerprints. Several times Police have found a match to the suspect.**

to do so. Recently, evidence from similar crimes committed in New York and North Carolina matched the DNA of Bloomington’s suspect. Sergeant Lewis said it’s just a matter of time before the suspect is caught.

“We might not solve a crime today,” said Lewis. “But months or years later we can reopen files and cases can be solved as a result of the collection of evidence.”

### HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

#### IS A BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED?

DO YOU HAVE HOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS this winter and spring? To protect your health and safety and the integrity of your home, the City may require a permit for some remodeling projects.



In general, if you alter, enlarge, repair, replace or demolish elements of your home or garage, a **building permit** is required. Cosmetic improvements, including painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, and installing cabinets or countertops, do not require permits.

Extensive projects may also require:

- An **electrical permit** if the project involves reconfiguring or adding new electrical wiring.
- A **plumbing permit** to cover installation or replacement of new or existing plumbing fixtures.
- A **heating permit** for items related to heating, air conditioning or air quality, such as bathroom fans.

A number of residential permits for plumbing, electrical, basement finishes, egress windows, siding, roofing, driveways, decks, demolition and some minor remodeling projects can be issued immediately.

Information about permits and associated handouts that provide summaries and guides to Code requirements are available online.

For more information, call Building and Inspections at 952-563-8930 or visit the City’s Web site at [ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: inspection reviews.

### PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY

#### DON’T FEED WILD ANIMALS

EACH YEAR BLOOMINGTON POLICE RECEIVE several hundred calls from residents who have problems with wild animals. While wild animals contribute to our enjoyment of nature, they can also damage property and threaten human health and safety. For this reason, the City has an ordinance that prohibits feeding raccoons at any time and feeding deer from November 1 through March 15.

Animal Control Officer Bill Forbes said while the City doesn’t prohibit feeding of

all wild animals, common sense dictates that you should not feed them.

“Feeding attracts a disproportionate number of animals that can have harmful consequences for both animals and humans,” Forbes said. “Urban wildlife species are establishing a new ecosystem and we need to make sure that we don’t upset that, no matter how well intentioned we are.”

For information, call 952-563-4942.



### GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT – THE *BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING*



“How much does it cost to print and mail the *Bloomington Briefing*?”  
*A Bloomington resident*

IN THE EARLY 1970s, THE CITY BEGAN producing a two-color, four-page newsletter to keep residents informed on City issues. To save money, other City publications were consolidated into the eight-page, bimonthly *Bloomington Briefing* in 1993. Today, thanks to improvements in technology, the full-color *Briefing* can be printed and mailed

to all households and businesses for just 25 cents per issue or \$1.50 per year, which is less than one-quarter of one percent the average homeowner pays in property taxes. For more information, call Communications Administrator Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818 or e-mail [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us).